

REMARKS

Section 112 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claim 52 as having insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "said device." Applicant notes that the limitation, as recited, reads as "each said device" and clearly refers to the element "each of a plurality of devices" recited at line 3 of claim 52. Accordingly, Applicant amends claims 52-54 to provide a "said each device" limitation. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 52-54 as amended comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Section 102 and 103 Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 19 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hawkins. Further, the Office Action rejects claims 4, 12-18, 22, 30-37, and 45-51 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Mensch Jr. in view of Hawkins, over Hawkins in view of Mensch and over Hawkins in view of Mustafa.

By this amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1-10, 14, 19-23, 32, 37, 41, 47 and 52-54. The amended claims include additional limitations that further distinguish the presently claimed invention from Hawkins and combinations of Hawkins, Mustafa and Mensch. Applicant respectfully submits that, in view of the amendments and for the following reasons, the prior rejections are moot.

Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references teaches a policy-based unit for selecting between clock signals. Hawkins, for example, is directed to a frequency switcher that directly adjusts a multi-level phase locked loop. Further, Hawkins provides multiple clock frequencies using multiple phase locked loops (col. 2, lines 41-50). It will be appreciated that this latter arrangement exhibits fundamental drawbacks including long-latency clock switching due to resynchronization of the multi-level phase locked loops prior to switching clock sources. In contrast, the presently claimed invention resolves the latency problem by, for example, using a clock selector circuit such as a multiplexer. Applicant respectfully submits that as claimed, the present invention provides novel and non-obvious solutions to long-standing and previously unresolved problems.

For at least these reasons, Applicant believes the amended claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims.



CONCLUSION

Applicant has amended the claims to distinguish them from the prior art cited, and believes they now recite a novel and useful invention. If any further questions should arise prior to a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney at the number set forth below.

Date: May 2, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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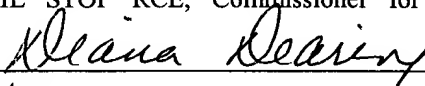
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